

Message Text

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S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF TWO CAIRO 3586

EXDIS

8. GOE HOPES USG WILL NOW PLAY A NEW, ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN FURTHERING A PEACE SETTLEMENT. EGYPT WANTS PEACE SO THAT IT MAY DEVELOP ITS RESOURCES. SO DOES ARAB WORLD. EGYPT CANNOT DO SO AS LONG AS ISRAEL CONTINUES TO OCCUPY ITS TERRITORY. IF PEACE IS TO BE ACHIEVED, IT CAN ONLY BE THROUGH STRONG USG ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

9. REFERRING TO ALLEGED COMMENTS THAT HAD SOMETIMES BEEN MADE TO HIM IN THE US ABOUT AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION, HE REJECTED THESE AS REASONS FOR USG INACTION. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN, IF IT WISHES, BRING PUBLIC OPINION WITH IT IN FAVOR OF AN HONORABLE PEACE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT GOE WILL ALSO HAVE TO PLAY A DIRECT PART IN ANY PEACE TALKS AND ASSURED ME HIS GOVERNMENT IS READY TO DO SO, CITING THE ARABIC PROVERB "THE BEST WAY TO SCRATCH YOUR BACK IS TO USE YOUR OWN NAILS." BUT, HE REPEATED, A STRONG USG ROLE IS ESSENTIAL IF PEACE TALKS ARE TO SUCCEED.

10. THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER SUGGESTIONS THAT 1973 WAS THE YEAR OF EUROPE AND THAT THE UNRESOLVED MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM COULD WAIT. RECENT EVENTS HAD SHOWN THAT THIS IS NOT SO. THE MIDDLE EAST NEEDS PRIORITY ATTENTION. SOME SMALL PROGRESS HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE, BUT HE REJECTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT A CEASEFIRE IS ENOUGH. HE

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WARNED THAT ANY NEW IMPASSE WILL NOT RESULT IN SIMPLY

FREEZING THE SITUATION. IT MUST GO EITHER FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS. EGYPT WAS GRATEFUL THAT THE SECRETARY HAS NOW PERSONALLY ENGAGED HIMSELF IN THE PROCESS. USG EFFORTS SHOULD CONTINUE BOTH IN THE INTERESTS OF ESTABLISHING REAL PEACE IN THE AREA AND TO ENABLE UNITED STATES-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS PROGRESSIVELY TO IMPROVE.

11. IN CONCLUDING, HAFEZ TOLD ME I WAS FREE TO MOVE AROUND AND MEET PEOPLE. THERE ARE MANY "INFLUENTIAL" INDIVIDUALS WHO HELPED MOLD PUBLIC OPINION. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THIS OPINION-MAKING SECTOR.

12. I THANKED HAFEZ FOR HIS CANDID EXPOSITION AND ALSO FOR THE COURTESIES WHICH THE GOE HAD EXTENDED TO ME SINCE MY ARRIVAL. I HAD BEEN CHARGED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND TO WORK TO DEVELOP A NEW CLIMATE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I WAS AWARE OF THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR THAT HE HAD MENTIONED, BUT THOUGHT IT ONLY FAIR TO SAY THAT THIS WAS NOT A ONE-SIDED MATTER. I COULD PERSONALLY ATTEST THAT MANY WELL-DISPOSED AMERICANS HAVE SOMETIMES FOUND ARAB ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES UNJUSTIFIED AND UNFAIR. IT WAS THUS INCUMBENT ON BOTH SIDES TO TRY TO MAKE A NEW START AND DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS THAT EXIST. IT WAS THE DUTY OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES TO HELP IN THE PROCESS. (HAFEZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS SO.)

13. CONTINUING, I POINTED OUT THAT USG SHARES MOST OF THE VIEWS THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED. IT RECOGNIZES THAT AN OPPORTUNITY MAY NOW EXIST TO TRY TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THE LONG FESTERING ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM AND DESIRES TO DO ITS PART. IT INTENDS TO MOVE AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. IN DOING SO, IT IS CONSCIOUS OF AN EGYPTIAN AS WELL AS AN ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM. I HAD, HOWEVER, TO TAKE SLIGHT ISSUE WITH HIM ON HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE USG COULD READILY DISMISS ITS OWN PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM. I

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THOUGHT GOE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF TRYING TO BRING AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION ALONG ON ANY STEPS THAT THE USE MIGHT WANT TO TAKE IN MOVING TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT. GOE AND OTHER ARAB STATES CAN HELP THE ADMINISTRATION IN THIS REGARD BY POSITIVE ACTIONS ON THEIR PART. CONVERSELY, FAILURE TO DO SO COULD CREATE FURTHER AMERICAN ADVERSE REACTION AND HAMSTRING USG'S EFFORTS. (HAFEZ AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED

THIS MIGHT BE SO.) I STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ARE VERY SERIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE TO PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE AND ARE ANXIOUS TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

14. ON LEAVING I SAID I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON HIM FROM TIME TO TIME TO OBTAIN HIS COUNSEL AND IDEAS. SAYING HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE ME IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT I HAD TO BE PASSED QUICKLY TO THE PRESIDENCY, HE SAID HE ASSUMED MOST CONTACTS WITH GOE WILL BE THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WHEN FAHMY IS AWAY, HE NOTED, SUPERVISION OVER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FALLS UNDER DR. ABDUL QADIR HATEM, THE DEPUTY PREMIER FOR CULTURE AND INFORMATION. I SAID THAT THIS WAS MY INTENTION, TO WORK THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT AS ONE WHO HAD HIMSELF HAD TALKS IN THE UNITED STATES LAST FEBRUARY AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY HIS MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS, I WANTED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM. HE SAID HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO BE OF HELP.
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